

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

3535 S. Sherwood Forest Boulevard, Suite 135, Baton Rouge, LA

**April 18, 2017**

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: Ben Babin, Jerry Thibeau, David Hoover, Willie George Lee, James Little, Anthony Rouchon, Don Thompson, Tamiara Wade, Kenneth "Wade" Welborn

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lionel Bailey, Burrell Carter, Terry Louque, Larry Thomas

ALSO PRESENT: ARBC Executive Director Dietmar Rietschier, ARBC Executive Secretary Toni Guitrau, ARBC Legal Counsel Larry Bankston

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Babin.
2. Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance
3. Public Comments on Agenda Items:
4. Minutes  
The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, second by Hoover to approve the March 2017 regular meeting minutes as presented.
5. Financial Statement Report:
  - Hoover presented to the Board the March 2017 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Rouchon, second by Welborn to approve the March 2017 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements.
6. Report by Executive Director:
  - Acquisition of non-moveable property on Tract 46 – The Board discussed the DOTD appraisal cost of \$7,000 to purchase a mobile home that is not in condition to be moved. A motion was made by Rouchon, seconded by Hoover to purchase the immovable property for \$7000. YEAS: Ben Babin, Jerry Thibeau, David Hoover, Willie George Lee, James Little, Anthony Rouchon, Tamiara Wade, Kenneth "Wade" Welborn. NAYS: Don Thompson, Absent: Lionel Bailey, Burrell Carter, Terry Louque, Larry Thomas
  - Approve Act of Sale – Tract 41/M3-80 Resolution 1123 – The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, second by Rouchon to approve the Act of Sale for Tract 41/M3-80 in the amount of for \$2,067,000. Rietschier noted that it needs an HTRW.
  - Continued from the ARBC meeting of March 2017: Consider Alternative Access – Tract 46: At the last ARBC meeting, the Board had discussed alternative access for the hunting lease. It was agreed the best solution would be to include Tracts 42 and 43 in the current hunting lease. Bankston was instructed to prepare a new lease. The Board approved a motion by Thompson second by Hoover to approve the new hunting lease as presented.
  - Representative Jerome Zeringue is promoting HB 144 that will allow levee and drainage boards that were formed after 2006 be included in the state statutes governing levee boards statewide. It could affect the ARBC.
  - Rietschier was invited by former ARBC President Callender to attend a River Boat Trip. The trip was to address the issue of the weir on the Amite River. Thibeau stated that he was informed that the weir could be done for approximately \$600,000.
  - President Babin and Executive Director Rietschier attended a House Homeland Security Committee at the State Capital on April 12, 2017 and made a presentation specifically emphasizing the need of federal funds to continue construction.
  - DOTD Report: DOTD Real Estate has completed the updated appraisal for Tract 39, Beechgrove Farm aka the Barton property. It has been sent to USACE for review. They are in negotiations for ADV-18, Bourque. These properties, Tract 41, M3-80, and M3-115 are the last properties being investigated at this time. DOTD's contractor, Cardno, is working with the utility companies to get their relocation plans and cost estimates. As of this date, Cardno has obtained five cost estimates for relocation. Several other utilities report that they are closing on agreements. USACE is reviewing the compensability of the Utilities.
7. ARBC Legal Counsel:
  - Bankston reminded the Board to submit their Tier 2.1 Financial Disclosure forms by May 15, 2017.
  - A letter was sent asking the congressional delegation to help on behalf of the governor's request. The governor secured 1.6 billion and asked for another 1.5 billion of which 124 million was for the Comite River Diversion Canal Project. The letter is asking for the status of this request.
  - Resolution 1131 – Consideration of a request for an Attorney General Opinion: Bankston prepared a request to the AG asking him if the CEA with DOTD is ever canceled in the event that this project does not continue, and we are no longer a participant in this project, what happens with remaining funds. Rouchon stated that a request for an AG opinion should probably wait until such an event occurs because it may never occur. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover second by Thompson to approve Resolution 1131.
8. Old Business: None
9. New Business: None
10. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Rouchon, second by Hoover to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

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/s/ Ben Babin

Ben Babin, ARBC President

Date: May 16, 2017

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/s/ Toni B. Guitrau

Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary